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Application No. 03 015 677.2 - 2207	Ref. 99 328 a/km	Date 09.11.2007
Applicant FUJITSU LIMITED		

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(2) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).



Braccini, Roberto
Primary Examiner
for the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 3 page/s reasons (Form 2906)

**Bescheld/Protokoll (Anlage)**

Datum
Date 09.11.2007
Date

Communication/Minutes (Annex)

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Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)

Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 03 015 677.2
Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the following application documents:

Description, Pages

1-4, 14-37	as originally filed			
5-13, 38	received on	12.01.2007	with letter of	11.01.2007

Claims, Numbers

1-26	received on	12.01.2007	with letter of	11.01.2007
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Drawings, Sheets

1/14-14/14	as originally filed
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Although the number of the apparatus independent claims has been reduced significantly, the newly filed set of claims does not appear to make a real progress towards the refutation of objections against grant of a patent.

Particularly, the following objections remain to be addressed on the application documents presently filed:

The subject-matter of the broad formulated independent claims 1 and 25 is not new in the sense of Article 54(1) and (2) EPC.

For example, the document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A current detection circuit (T1,82) of an inverter (66) that converts DC input (V62) into AC output and supplies the AC output to a load (L), comprising:

- a current detection part (T1,R1) that detects change in a circuit current of said inverter through the medium [sic] of the magnetic flux change (in the transformer core) due to the change of said circuit current caused by discharge.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not new (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

Further with respect to the subject-matter of claim, the disclosure of document D2 is also considered equally relevant (cf. Figure 4B).



The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claim 25, drafted in the method category, which therefore is also considered not new (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

Dependent claims 2, 4-24 and 26 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the EPC in respect of novelty (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC) and/or inventive step (Article 56), for the following reasons:

The additional features of claims 4, 5, 8-10, 12-14, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are also fully disclosed in at least document D1, see passages cited in the search report (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC).

The features of claims 2 and 11 are described in document D6 (see Figure 3) or alternatively document D7 as providing the same advantages as in the present application. The skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal design option to include these features in the current detection circuit described in D1 (Article 56 EPC).

To the extent that the features of the dependent claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 19 are not shown in the documents on file, such features would fall within the customary practice of the skilled person (Article 56 EPC).

The added features of claims 18 and 22 are merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, see e.g. document D5 (Article 56 EPC).

The combination of the features of dependent claim 3 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art. A new independent claim may be drafted to include these features, bearing in mind that the features known in combination in D1 should be placed in the preamble of such a claim in accordance with Rule 29(1) EPC.

**Bescheld/Protokoll (Anlage)**

Datum
Date
Date 09.11.2007

Communication/Minutes (Annex)

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Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)

Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 03 015 677.2
Demande n°:

The applicant is invited to file new amendments (claims and description) which take account of the above comments.